

March 22, 2002

Public Notice for Section 401 Water Quality Certification

**California Department of Transportation
Piercy Drainage Project
Mendocino County**

On February 11, 2002, the Regional Water Board received an application from California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) requesting Federal Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification for the Piercy Drainage Project. The application covers disturbances to waters of the United States associated with improving a drainage system.

This state-only funded project is to correct a drainage outlet that has created a 1.8m x 2.5m x 1.4m sinkhole on property outside of the right-of-way. The site is located on State Route 271 in Piercy, adjacent to the post office and the interchange/ramps to US Route 101. The existing drainage ditch has filled in with sediment and does not have a clearly defined channel until the drainage reaches the low point of the property.

The proposed work will improve the existing drainage ditch and channelize water on the north side of the parcel. Proposed work consists of removing and abandoning existing corrugated steel drain pipe, installing new plastic pipe, regrading the existing ditch, constructing a new ditch, and installing an energy dissipater and bank stabilizing vegetation. Some of the work will be within the existing right-of-way and some of the work will be outside of the right-of-way, requiring temporary easements during construction and a permanent drainage easement thereafter.

Environmental permits will also be required from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the California Department of Fish and Game. Permit requirements will entail implementation of Best Management Practices and a work window during the dry season to minimize sediment impacts to the drainage. The project will not impact cultural resources or sensitive biological resources. An initial site assessment indicates that, while the property where the Piercy Post Office is located is on the Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List, the site has been abated of contaminants, and hazardous wastes will not be encountered with this project.

Work is scheduled to begin May 1 and end October 15, 2002. At this time, Regional Water Board staff is in the process of reviewing the proposed project for issuance of a 401 Water Quality Certification. The Regional Water Board will consider all comments received within the 21-day comment period that begins on the date this notice is posted. Comments on this project should be submitted to Kirsten James at jamek@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov, within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

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